

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 498

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCOTT.

Read 1st time February 13, 2007, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

2138S.011

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 337.510, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to professional counselors.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 337.510, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 337.510, to read as follows:

337.510. 1. Each applicant for licensure as a professional counselor shall  
2 furnish evidence to the committee that the applicant is at least eighteen years of  
3 age, is of good moral character, is a United States citizen or is legally present in  
4 the United States; and

5 (1) The applicant has completed a course of study as defined by the board  
6 rule leading to a master's, specialist's, or doctoral degree with a major in  
7 counseling; and

8 (2) The applicant has completed acceptable supervised counseling as  
9 defined by board rule. If the applicant has a master's degree with a major in  
10 counseling as defined by board rule, the applicant shall complete at least two  
11 years of acceptable supervised counseling experience subsequent to the receipt of  
12 the master's degree. The composition and number of hours comprising the  
13 acceptable supervised counseling experience shall be defined by board rule. An  
14 applicant may substitute thirty semester hours of post master's graduate study  
15 for one of the two required years of acceptable supervised counseling experience  
16 if such hours are clearly related to counseling;

17 (3) After August 28, 2007, each applicant shall have completed a  
18 minimum of three hours of graduate level coursework in diagnostic systems either  
19 in the curriculum leading to a degree or as post master's graduate level course  
20 work;

21 (4) Upon examination, the applicant is possessed of requisite knowledge  
22 of the profession, including techniques and applications, research and its  
23 interpretation, and professional affairs and ethics.

24 2. Any person who previously held a valid unrevoked, unsuspended license  
25 as a professional counselor in this state and who held a valid license as a  
26 professional counselor in another state at the time of application to the committee  
27 shall be granted a license to engage in professional counseling in this state upon  
28 application to the committee accompanied by the appropriate fee as established  
29 by the committee pursuant to section 337.507.

30 3. Any person holding a current license, certificate of registration, or  
31 permit from another state or territory of the United States to practice as a  
32 professional counselor **who is at least eighteen years of age, of good moral**  
33 **character, and a United States citizen or legally present in the United**  
34 **States** may be granted a license without examination to engage in the practice  
35 of professional counseling in this state upon the application to the board,  
36 payment of the required fee as established by the board, and satisfying one of the  
37 following requirements:

38 (1) Approval by the American Association of State Counseling Boards  
39 (AASCB) or its successor organization according to the eligibility criteria  
40 established by AASCB. The successor organization shall be defined by board  
41 rule; or

42 (2) In good standing and currently certified by the National Board for  
43 Certified Counselors or its successor organization and has completed acceptable  
44 supervised counseling experience as defined by board rule. The successor  
45 organization shall be defined by board rule; or

46 (3) Determination by the board that the requirements of the other state  
47 or territory are substantially the same as Missouri and certified by the  
48 applicant's current licensing entity that the applicant has a current license. The  
49 applicant shall also consent to examination of any disciplinary history.

50 4. The committee shall issue a license to each person who files an  
51 application and fee and who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the committee that  
52 the applicant has complied with the provisions of this act and has taken and  
53 passed a written, open-book examination on Missouri laws and regulations  
54 governing the practice of professional counseling as defined in section  
55 337.500. The division shall issue a provisional professional counselor license to  
56 any applicant who meets all requirements of this section, but who has not

57 completed the required acceptable supervised counseling experience and such  
58 applicant may reapply for licensure as a professional counselor upon completion  
59 of such acceptable supervised counseling experience.

60         5. All persons licensed to practice professional counseling in this state  
61 shall pay on or before the license renewal date a renewal license fee and shall  
62 furnish to the committee satisfactory evidence of the completion of the requisite  
63 number of hours of continuing education as required by rule, which shall be no  
64 more than forty hours biennially. The continuing education requirements may  
65 be waived by the committee upon presentation to the committee of satisfactory  
66 evidence of the illness of the licensee or for other good cause.

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Bill

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